

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR AFGHAN FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Fulbright Scholars Act, which would direct the State Department to automatically issue a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) for every Afghan who lived in the United States as a Fulbright Scholar and their legal spouse and children, so they can escape persecution by the Taliban and relocate safely to the United States. My legislation also provides for Afghan nationals selected by the State Department for similar educational or cultural exchange programs, which included living, working, or studying in the United States after the start of the U.S. strikes against the Taliban and the terrorists responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

In 2009, Congress passed the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (Title VI of Public Law 111–8) making a special class of American visas—known as “Special Immigrant Visas”—available to individual Afghan allies who supported the United States’ mission in Afghanistan. An SIV entitles a foreign national to relocate with their immediate family and live lawfully in the United States on a temporary basis with the option to settle permanently.

During the U.S. military drawdown from Afghanistan and the region this past summer, my Congressional office helped to evacuate over a dozen Afghan Fulbright Scholars who studied at the University of California, Davis in my district. That critical work revealed red tape preventing current and former Afghan Fulbright Scholars from obtaining the SIV needed to escape persecution by the Taliban, underscoring the need for this legislation.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I was impressed by the United States Air Force and Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) executing the single largest airlift since the Berlin Airlift during the onset of the Cold War to evacuate our Afghan allies. With American military operations in Afghanistan now ended, I am committed to bringing all our Afghan allies safely to the United States.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all members of the House to join me in cosponsoring the Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Fulbright Scholars Act.

HONORING PEDRO BRULL FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Pedro Brull.

Pedro was born in 1938 in the town of Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. From a young age, his father encouraged him to take lessons in drawing and painting with famous Puerto Rican artist Rafael Rios Rey in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His mentor later recommended Pedro to artist Nina Lelled, who was the former art director for a local Puerto Rican television station. Brull worked for this company for 22 years, working as an apprentice, a TV technician, and later as art director and production manager. During this time, Brull studied commercial art and received a bachelor’s degree in fine arts while at a New York City TV station.

Pedro Brull is an award-winning artist and is recognized by many institutions. He even received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his artwork. His artwork is on display in several places including Spain, Africa, Puerto Rico, and numerous art galleries within the United States. Pedro is also the recent creator of “La Diaspora de Artistas Puertorriqueños.”

Today, he is focusing his efforts on the creation of a Museum for Latino Art and Culture. Five other Hispanic artists have joined Pedro to coordinate this project. In Spain, the Museum of Graphic and Drawing invited Pedro to send three of his drawings to be part of their permanent museum collection where they have been placed for art enthusiasts to enjoy. Pedro is married to Magda Brull and together they have four children: Maria, Jaime, Haydee, and Pablo. Brull was a former evangelical minister for more than 50 years.

For this and more, we honor Pedro Brull.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll call 313, on Motion to suspend the rules and pass The Surface Transportation Extension Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 313.

PASSING OF EDUCATION PIONEER DR. SAUNDRA W. DAVIS

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I am marking the passing of education pioneer and advocate Sandra W. Davis, a leader who spent decades working to assure that all children in Culver City, and in Los Angeles more broadly, have access to a high-quality education. I had the privilege of meeting her as I began service in the California Assembly and I have long admired her dedication to public service.

The first African American ever elected to public office in Culver City, she won a seat on

the Culver City School Board in 2000 and served two terms, rising to serve as its president. Mrs. Davis’ accomplishment marked a significant milestone in Culver City’s journey to become one of the most progressive municipalities in the region. She remained active in Culver City throughout her life.

She made progress on closing the achievement gap for students of color, and went on to found Community Centers Inc., (CCI) a 40-year-old non-profit in South Los Angeles to provide services in computer literacy, adult education, and immigration advocacy.

Wife to Bilson Davis and mother to eight children, Dr. Davis had an early passion for education and never stopped learning herself. After graduating Crenshaw High School, she earned numerous degrees and certifications throughout her life and eventually received an honorary doctorate. She held a California Teaching Credential and served as director of Holy Temple Christian Elementary School, and later worked as a parent educator for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Mrs. Davis won several awards for her community and advocacy work including: an NAACP Emerging Leader award; the Delta Sigma Theta Woman of Honor award; the City of Los Angeles 8th District Woman of the Year. She leaves behind a significant legacy of community improvement and she will be missed.

HONORING STEPHANIE CARRIZALES FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Stephanie Carrizales. Stephanie is a Mexican American patient care tech at Winter Haven Women’s Hospital in Central Florida. She has served her community for the past eight years and plans to continue devoting her time to patient care in the future. Stephanie began her career at Winter Haven Women’s as a night shift interpreter. She is proud of her Mexican heritage and bilingualism and knew she wanted to do this from a young age. She felt honored to help patients and doctors understand one another, especially for mothers when meeting their newborns.

Stephanie was born and raised in Polk County by her two hardworking and loving Mexican parents. They immigrated to this country as teenagers to find better opportunities for their family. Stephanie believes that her parents’ work ethic has kept her motivated to strive toward her goals. She graduated from Bartow High School with high honors and obtained her certified nursing assistant license in the school’s medical program. She is a first-generation college graduate with her A.A. degree in liberal arts. Stephanie is proud of her Hispanic culture and is honored to help her community every day.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

For this and more, we honor Stephanie Carrizales.

HONORING D.C.'s 2021 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating three District of Columbia schools recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

For the past 39 years, the Department of Education has recognized schools for overall academic excellence or for reducing achievement gaps. Since 1982, over 40 schools in the District have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools. This year, BASIS DC Public Charter School, Eaton Elementary School and Lafayette Elementary School were selected as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

BASIS DC Public Charter School, located in downtown near the Smithsonian museums, was established in 2012 and serves 640 students in grades 5–12. BASIS DC's school mascot is the Red Giants. Students at BASIS are proactive in attaining college scholarships. The total amount of college gift aid earned by the Class of 2017 was over \$700,000. I applaud BASIS DC and its students for securing scholarships for college education and for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Located in Cleveland Park, Eaton Elementary School strives to provide a culturally enriching education for its diverse student body. Established in 1910, Eaton Elementary serves 467 students in grades PK–5. Partnering with the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., Eaton Elementary created its Student Sleuth Program, which allowed fourth-grade students to learn grass-roots research in investigating their school's history. I applaud Eaton Elementary School for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Lafayette Elementary School, located in Chevy Chase, serves 940 students in grades PK–5. Lafayette Elementary was established in 1928 and emphasizes the importance of integrating the arts into all subject areas to enrich their students' learning experiences. I applaud Lafayette Elementary School for its recognition this year as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating BASIS DC Public Charter School, Eaton Elementary School and Lafayette Elementary School for their recognition as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GARY STAMPER

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Southwest Washington resident and Lewis County Com-

missioner, Gary Stamper. Gary sadly passed away last week at the age of 67 after fighting a battle with COVID–19.

Gary went to school and graduated from Mossyrock High School, and eventually earned a Master's in School Administration from Heritage University.

For years, Gary devoted his life to public education—working as a principal, teacher, and coach in East Lewis county. He truly cared about his students succeeding in all aspects of life. One of his most memorable achievements was leading the Mossyrock Girls Basketball team to a state championship. Since his passing, there has been an outpouring of support from former students talking about Gary; not only as a principal, teacher, coach, but as a mentor, a role model and supporter at times in their lives when they most needed it.

It was his strong commitment to the rural communities in Lewis County for which so many people know him. Following his retirement from public education in 2014, Gary continued to serve his community as a Lewis County Commissioner.

If it was an issue that mattered to small businesses, to schools, to families or to the surrounding forests, Gary knew about it and he was a most effective advocate for it. I cherish deeply my work alongside Gary. We lost a great leader.

I'm extending my thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies to Gary's family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING TERESA ANN RODRIGUEZ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Teresa Rodríguez. Teresa is one of the many northern transplants who now call Central Florida home. A native New Yorker of Puerto Rican descent, she arrived in Orlando in 2012. After two years of working in the tourism industry, she now works at the University of Central Florida. Her time there has afforded her the opportunity to assist and create outreach efforts for Hispanic and other diverse communities in Orlando.

Having received her bachelor's degree in Spanish from Brooklyn College at the City University of New York, she put her bilingual skills to good use and worked with the City of Orlando's "Hispanic Office for Local Assistance" to establish and maintain free English classes. She served as the point of contact, advocate, and administrator for the university-wide Latin American-Caribbean scholarship initiative, the Hurricane Maria Disaster Recovery Program, and the Venezuela Assistance Program at the English Language Institute. She also assisted in running the Hurricane Dorian Disaster Recovery Tuition Assistance Program.

Teresa was a selection committee member and helped process non-resident alien tuition emergency funds assistance via a hardship waiver program. She also helped coordinate efforts between several partners and newly ar-

rived Central Florida non-English speaking community members to help them acquire Florida state licenses. Teresa remains affiliated to and volunteers for the Puerto Rico Research Hub at UCF.

For this and more, we honor Teresa Rodríguez.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. C.D. "DAN" MOTE, JR., FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Dr. C.D. "Dan" Mote, Jr., who served as President of the University of Maryland, College Park, from 1998 to 2010, in recognition of his contributions to the school's legacy of academic excellence.

Dr. Mote came to Maryland in 1998 after spending three decades at the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied dynamics systems and biomechanics and led the top-ranked graduate mechanical engineering program in the country. His research on gyroscopic systems and the biomechanics of snow skiing has been internationally recognized. He holds patents in four countries and has been published more than 300 times.

His leadership, both as an educator and in the field of biomechanics, has had global impact; he truly lives up to his motto: Excellence in All We Do.

At the University of Maryland, Dr. Mote worked to make education more affordable and inclusive by expanding access to financial aid programs, including the Maryland Incentive Awards, the Pathways program, and the Keep Me Maryland fund. One of his primary goals was closing the graduation gap for underrepresented minority students. His work was reflected in the achievements of Maryland students throughout his tenure.

Under Dr. Mote's leadership, the university received a record number of highly qualified applicants. He was committed to bringing in academically-committed students and giving them as many opportunities as possible to succeed. He tripled the number of students participating in study-abroad programs, provided new opportunities to enroll in courses outside of major requirements, and increased research funding more than 150 percent.

On October 10, the Maryland Incentive Awards Program and an Engineering Research Laboratory at the university will be named in Dr. Mote's honor. This recognition is well-deserved, and I join the University of Maryland, College Park, in saluting Dr. Mote's lifelong commitment to expanding academic opportunity and ensuring our state's flagship public university continues to excel. His legacy of excellence is visible each day at the University of Maryland, College Park, and his impact will be felt for decades to come.

I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Dr. Mote on an illustrious career and in thanking him for all he did for Maryland students over his twelve-year tenure and throughout his life in academia.